

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Status

Claims 1-10 are pending. Claim 6 is amended. No new matter is added.

§101 Rejection

Claim 6 is amended as "computer-readable medium" and to be performed in a computer in correspondence to Applicant's specification (page 13, paragraph 1) of the invention. Thus, this rejection to Claim 6 is overcome.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges with thank that the subject matter of claims 5 and 9 is deemed allowable if re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

§103 Rejection

Claims 1-4, 6-8, and 10 are rejected as obvious over Gordon (US6677929) in view of Shinz (JP409237157). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Regarding independent Claims 1, 6, and 7, "a step of inputting a character by moving the pointer from the pointer start area according to the sensed movement" is not disclosed in column 11 line 37-55, and FIGS. 2 and 4 of Gordon, as alleged by the Examiner.

Specifically, column 11 line 37-55 and FIGS. 2 and 4 of Gordon discloses that the user can adjust the length of the bar graph by moving his/her thumb on the pseudo trackball in order to control the volume, etc., and also discloses that the user can push the pseudo trackball and make a selection when the bar graph is positioned at a desired setting position.

That is, column 11 line 37-55 of Gordon discloses only that the user can adjust the length of the bar graph using the pseudo trackball, and does not disclose a configuration of this invention, "inputting a character" by sensing the movement of the finger on the display and thereby moving the pointer.

Accordingly, Gordon does not discloses "a step of inputting a character by moving the pointer from the pointer start area according to the sensed movement" claimed in Claim 1 of this invention.

Regarding independent Claims 1, 6, and 7, "a step of returning the pointer to the pointer start area according to the input of the character" is not disclosed in the Abstract of Shinz, as alleged by the examiner.

Specifically, the Abstract of Shinz only discloses the cursor having a predetermined position, that is, the cursor being located at a position above an actual position of the finger at the point in time when the operator moves his/her finger on the touch panel to prevent the cursor from being unseen due to his/her finger, and being located at the actual position at the point in time when the operator separates his/her finger away from the touch panel. However, this invention discloses a step of returning the pointer to the pointer start area (where the pointer is first located) after moving the pointer. Accordingly, there is a difference between this invention and Abstract of Shinz.

According to Shinz, after the operator moves his/her finger, the cursor is located at a predetermined position where his/her finger is finally positioned and thus the cursor is located at "a non-fixed position (actual position of the finger)" after the operator separates his/her finger from the touch panel. However, according to this invention, after moving the finger to move the pointer and inputting the character, the pointer returns to "a

fixed position (pointer start area)". In this aspect, it can be said that this invention is different from Shinz.

Accordingly, Shinz neither discloses nor suggests "a step of returning the pointer to the pointer start area according to the input of the character".

Therefore, this rejection fails because it does not set forth a prima facie case of obviousness.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests an early Notice of Allowance in this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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